

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 16-30 and 32-44 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 20, 23 and 32 are amended, and claims 6, 14, 15 and 31 are cancelled. The claims are amended to correct typographical informalities and to overcome the claim rejections. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 13, 16-30 and 33-44, and the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 6-8, 10-12, 31 and 32. The features of claim 6 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. In addition, claim 32 has been amended in consideration of the comments contained in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 32 was objected to, and also was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being incomplete. Applicants submit that the above amendments to claim 32 overcome the objection and rejection.

With respect to the claim objection, while the preamble of claim 32 has not been amended, the body of the claim has been amended to recite that a substrate is held by the first movable stage, and is exposed to a pattern while held by the first movable stage, and that the substrate is further processed in order to produce the device. Thus, it is believed that the original preamble is appropriate.

With respect to the assertion in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, that claim 32 is incomplete, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 32 as amended is complete. In particular, claim 32 recites the step of "further processing the substrate...in order to produce the device." It is not necessary or appropriate to recite the particulars of the "further processing" since those particulars will vary depending on the device which is produced. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the "further processing" step is a broad step, and that no "essential" step has been omitted from claim 32.

Withdrawal of the objection and rejection of claim 32 is requested.

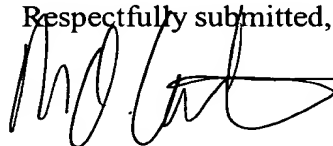
The rejections of claims 14, 15 and 31 are moot by the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 1-5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,285,444 to Osanai et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,897,553 to Nishi. This rejection is moot because, as noted above, the features of claim 6 have been placed into independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 9, 2003

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